

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 1125 SENT SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS
CAIRO LONDON MEXICO OTTAWA PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM TEL AVIV
BEIRUT TOKYO EC BRUSSELS GENEVA NATO DATED JAN 14.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

REF: EC BRUSSELS 00265

1. SUMMARY. IRVING BROWN WILL BE VISITING ILO DG
BLANCHARD AND POSSIBLY ISRAEL IN HIS EFFORTS TO POST-
PONE DISCUSSION IN MARCH MEETING OF ILO GOVERNING BODY
DISCUSSION OF PLO AND RELATED ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. IRVING BROWN, AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE
IN PARIS, IS PREPARING HIMSELF FOR HIS FIRST TEST AS
U.S. WORKER DELEGATE TO THE ILO GOVERNING BODY WHICH
IS SCHEDULED TO MEET 3 MARCH. IN TALKING TO LABATT
HE IDENTIFIED PLO REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS AS A
DIFFICULT PROBLEM WHICH, DEPENDING ON HOW IT IS
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HANDLED, MAY AFFECT ILO'S FUTURE AS A TRIPARTITE

ORGANIZATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH AFL-CIO AND
EVENTUALLY USG.

3. BROWN RECOGNIZES THAT IF THE MATTER CAME TO A
VOTE PLO WOULD OBTAIN RECOGNITION. AS A RESULT HIS
STRATEGY IS TO PREVENT SUCH A VOTE. HE IS RELYING
FOR THAT ON COORDINATION WITH ICFTU (REFTEL) AND
ON STRONG LEADERSHIP FROM ILO-DG FRANCIS BLANCHARD
(FRANCE) WHOM BROWN PLANS TO VISIT IN GENEVA THIS
WEEK. BROWN INTENDS TO BE "ABSOLUTELY FRANK" WITH
BLANCHARD BY CAUTIONING HIM THAT IF HE FAILS TO DRAW
UPON HIS PANOPLY OF WAYS AND MEANS TO STALL AND
PREVENT THE GOVERNING BODY FROM DISCUSSING PLO ISSUE,
"HE WILL BE ACCUSED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, AS INSTRUMENT
OF FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY". WHILE HE WILL NOT
SPECULATE WHAT AFL-CIO IS LIKELY TO DO IN THE EVENT
ILO CONTINUES TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ISSUES OF
TYPE EXEMPLIFIED BY PLO, BROWN WILL LEAVE NO DOUBT IN
BLANCHARD'S MIND ABOUT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ILO
IF IT DOES NOT CONCENTRATE ON ITS PRIMARY MISSION IN
LABOR FIELD.

4. BROWN BELIEVES THAT QUESTION OF THE "PALESTINE"
RESOLUTION PASSED BY ILO CONFERENCE LAST JUNE MAY BE
EASIER TO HANDLE. HE IS AWARE THAT A GOOD NUMBER OF
FORMULAS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION, SOME ORIGINATING
WITH BLANCHARD HIMSELF TO POSTPONE OR LIMIT GB
DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT. IN THIS CONNECTION ANTOINE
FAESCH, FO WORKER DELEGATE TO ILO, HAS COME UP WITH
LEGALISTIC ARGUMENT THAT ISRAEL IS FOLLOWING
INTERNATIONAL LAW BY OBSERVING LEGISLATION IN EFFECT
PRIOR TO JUNE 1967 AND THEREFORE ANY CRITICISM FOR
ALLEGED VIOLATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS SHOULD BE

ADDRESSED TO JORDAN RATHER THAN ISRAEL. BROWN IS
INTRIGUED BY THIS ARGUMENT EVEN IF IT IS, AS HE SAID,
A TECHNICAL ONE AND INTENDS TO CHECK ITS VALIDITY
AND USEFULNESS WHILE IN GENEVA.

5. DEPENDING UPON OUTCOME OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH
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BLANCHARD, BROWN INTENDS TO VISIT ISRAEL TO COORDINATE
TACTICS AND STRATEGY. HE REMAINS CONVINCED THAT
EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO GAIN TIME BY DELAYING
ANY GB DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. HE FEELS
THAT BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE WHEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WILL TAKE PLACE "A LOT OF THINGS" CAN HAPPEN IN OTHER
FORA TO RELIEVE PRESSURES ON ILO.

6. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH BROWN SPOKE WARMLY ABOUT RESULTS OF HIS MEETING WITH ICFTU'S KERSTEN AND VANDERVECKEN, EVERYTHING HE SAID OR INTIMATED IN PARIS SUSTAINS THE LUCID CONCLUSION OF REFTEL THAT IT WOULD BE AN ILLUSION TO INTERPRET HIS CONTACTS AS A SIGNAL OF AFL-CIO RETURN TO ICFTU. THESE CONTACTS, HOWEVER, ARE NONE THE LESS SIGNIFICANT FOR THAT. THEY CONFIRM AFL-CIO INTENTION TO RETURN TO EUROPE. RUSH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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